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United States  
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Agriculture

National  
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Library

Office of the  
Director

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NAL NEWS NOTES

### AGRICULTURE WEEK EXHIBIT

FEB 27 '84

A three-panel NAL exhibit, including an online demonstration, was one of 16 agency exhibits on display in the Patio of the Administration Building during the week of the President's visit to the Department. A 2-page fact sheet on NAL services was prepared and distributed along with several other brochures. David Hoyt and Ruben Aragon manned the exhibit with backup from the D.C. Branch. The agency exhibits will be on display in the NAL lobby from June 1-September 30 in an event tentatively entitled "Meet the Agencies."

### BREADTH AND DEPTH OF RESEARCH

The reference staff has received a number of interesting requests for information covering a wide range of agricultural subjects.

- use of mineral oil added to grain in storage for the prevention of dust explosions
- use of dogs for predator control of sheep
- spinach diseases
- economics of soil degradation in Southeast Asia
- computers in agriculture
- to name a new species of butterfly that attacks cranberries
- sensory perceptions in organisms

(Lassanyi)

### FOREIGN TRAVEL

Shirley Gaventa (RD) will travel to Rome and Vienna in the near future to consult with AGRIS about commodities and AGROVOC and to assist in the input of U.S. records into the AGRIS online system. She will be traveling at FAO expense for a period of 1 month. (Kulp)

For the better part of the month of March, David Hoyt (ER) was on leave and in travel status to FAO in Rome, Italy, and IAALD in Nairobi, Kenya. (Farkas)

Philip Turner (ISD) delivered a paper at the International Conference on the Application of Mini and Microcomputers in Information, Documentation, and Libraries, Tel-Aviv, Israel, March 13-18.

### SFCST PROGRAM

The Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) has undertaken the reimplementations of the Special Foreign Currency Scientific Translation program discontinued by the National Science Foundation and the



National Technical Information Service in September 1981. Tatiana Tontarski has been designated as the SFCST translations representative for the Library. (Lassanyi)

### SECURITY

The Nursery/Seed Trade Catalog Collection has been moved from the bookstacks to the rare book cage for better security. On March 22, two catalogs were found after hours on a table by the card catalog in the lobby. These trade catalogs are irreplaceable. Should anyone find these catalogs in the reading room or scattered about the Library, please bring them to H. Gilbert's or M. Lassanyi's attention. (Lassanyi)

### DIALOG RELOAD

DIALOG, after some problems, has reloaded the AGRICOLA File 10 from January 1982 forward. This has resolved our language and ADU SF problems covering that period. New subject category codes for 1982 and 1983 were validated and loaded. We still, however, have problems with the language index prior to 1982. (Judy)

### CLASS ELECTRONIC MAIL

A contract has been signed to initiate a new electronic mail service through CLASS. This is an electronic mail service designed especially for libraries. There are currently over 400 institutional members in the system. NAL is now waiting for its passwords. (Judy)

### ONLINE SERVICES

Information Systems Division has installed two video adaptors on the display monitors at NAL and DCB. These adaptors replace the aging Digilogs and can be used with any teletypewriter terminal in online demonstrations and classes. The adaptors have been tested on the large-screen TV in the NAL lobby and found to provide an excellent medium for demonstrating computer retrieval to a large audience. An additional adaptor has also been acquired so that the IBM Personal Computer can be used with the large-screen TV and any other regular set. New software has been acquired and tested for IBM that makes it comparatively easy to prepare computer demos and other visual presentations to both large and small groups. (Judy)

### ORAL HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cathy Clingan is a graduate student in library science at the University of Maryland. As a course requirement, she is compiling, under the guidance of Alan Fusonie, a special bibliography of the 400 plus oral histories in the NAL collection. James R. Heintze, Associate Librarian, American University,



in a recent letter noted that our oral history collection constitutes a unique asset to those materials relating to the history of agriculture. He plans to include information on the collection in Scholar's Guide to Washington, D.C.: Audio Resources to be published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1984. (Fusonie)

### BOOK REVIEW

A book review of The Art of Abstracting (Edward T. Cremmins, Philadelphia, ISI Press, 1982) by Charles Bebee (ISD) was published in Bio Science Vol. 33, No. 3. (Bebee)

### ERS LIBRARIAN CONTEST WINNER

Dorothy Heise, librarian for the Economic Research Service Reference Center, won third prize in a national online search contest conducted by the Information Access Company (IAC). In order to win, contestants had to search in each of five bibliographic databases produced by IAC, using clues to identify the answers. Mrs. Heise's solution won a cash prize and is an indication of her expertise in online searching in a variety of databases. (Ag Reporter, Vol. 35, No. 4)

### APPOINTMENTS

Marilyn Jacobs (ER) was re-elected to the Credit Committee for the NARC Federal Credit Union.

Henry Gilbert (IAD) has been designated as the contact person and subject specialist for the Farmland Protection Project.

### VISITORS AND TOURS

Summary Tabulation of Visitors Received by NAL, March 1983:

	No. of Visitors	Scientists	Other Professionals	Foreign	Domestic	Countries Represented
March	51	10	41	10	40	3
Oct/Mar	237	21	215	35	201	8
3/3/83	Thirty people from the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Delegation.					
3/7/83	Six library students from Western Michigan University.					
3/15/83	Dr. Penu B. Kostadinov, Assistant Commercial Counselor, Bulgarian Embassy.					

3/16/83 Four plant pathologists from the People's Republic of China.

3/23/83 Six visitors from People's Republic of China.

3/25/83 Four associates of National Library of Medicine.

### CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES

Congressman John D. Dingell's (D-Michigan) staff called to inquire about the plant Parthenium, its allergenic properties, and areas where it would grow. E. McLaughlin assisted with the request.

Ray Stocks from Congressman Kent R. Hance's (D-Texas) office called for assistance in locating a copy of a USDA publication entitled Better Country. The publication is a recently released report on USDA Rural Development. E. McLaughlin handled the request.

A. MacTaggart, office of Senator G. J. Humphrey (R-New Hampshire), requested a copy of an article Fluoride: The Missing Link in Acid Rain. Vicki Pessagno provided the article.

Robert Tosterud of the Joint Economic Committee requested material to rush to Senator Abdnor (R-South Dakota) on the floor. J. Rafats was able to verify the request over the telephone using AGRICOLA.

### PERSONNEL

Welcome to:

Win Gelenter (RD) who reported to Acquisitions Section on March 7. Win is a librarian and will be working primarily on serial subscriptions.

Tarmar Arozian and Donald Wells (IAD) who assumed student aide positions effective April 4.

Good-bye to:

James Crytzer (RD) who resigned March 3 to accept an auditor's position with the U.S. Army.

Carol Zimmerman (RD) who left on March 3 on 90 days LWOP. She is accompanying her husband to Scotland, where he has been transferred with the Navy.

Earl Wallace's (IAD) retirement became effective on March 31. A party was held in his honor at the Holiday Inn on March 29. Members from all sections of the Library, retirees, and other former library employees, family, and friends attended. Mr. Howard, Mr. Sams, Mr. Swab, and others spoke on the subject of Mr. Wallace's career and wished him well in retirement. Staff and friends presented him with gifts symbolizing their friendship and appreciation.



EXTRAMURAL MEETINGS

Jesse Ostroff (F&SP) attended the Second National Residue Avoidance Program Workshop March 29-30.

Wallace C. Olsen (F&SP) attended the annual review meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, March 16 and the USDA Technology Transfer Committee meeting on March 31.

William Longenecker (IAD) attended DPMA sponsored meeting on the future of data processing.

Jennie Brogdon and Veronica Lefebvre (IAD) attended the Interlibrary Loan Workshop sponsored by Goddard Space Flight Center Library March 7.

Beth Root (RD) participated in a meeting of depository libraries in Maryland for U.S. Government publications on March 2.

Shirley Gaventa, Don Blamberg, and Kathleen O'Leary (RD) visited exhibits at the 1983 Federal Office Systems Expo at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center on March 16.

Claudia Weston, Beth Whiting, and Pat John (RD) attended the second East Coast Data Phase Users' Group Meeting at George Washington University on March 17.

Joseph Swab (IAD) attended an all-day seminar on use of mini-computers in libraries at the Library of Congress, March 2.

Joe Judy (ISD) attended a conference on residue analysis and detection in Washington, D.C. and on March 24 chaired an FLC Planning Committee Meeting at the Library of Congress.

